ATTENDANCE

Present:
Regrets:
Absent:
Quorum: 17 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at ___ pm.

SPECIAL RULES ADOPTION

WHEREAS the Council has not yet established in the policy suspending of Roberts Rules of Order and,

WHEREAS a similar decision has been made in the past and proved fruitful,

BIRT the Council adopts the following special rules of order for this Council meeting:

• Each member’s speaking time limit per speaking turn is 3 minutes unless extended by the Council or otherwise specified in the agenda.

• The time limit of debate for each motion is 20 minutes unless extended by the Council; and

• There is no limit on how many times a member can speak on each motion.

MOVER:    SECONDER:    RESULT:

AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER:    SECONDER:    RESULT:

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President:

INTRODUCTIONS

[Introductions]
1  EXPEDIENT MATTERS

At the discretion of the President, the following are deemed urgent matters for Council and are presented at the beginning of Council (not exceeding 10mins):

1.1 2021 ABCS LOBBY DAYS AND ABCS ADVOCACY YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Responsible: Alireza Kamyabi (VP External); Grace Dupasquier (ABCS Chairperson)
Description: Guest presentation to GSS Council; 10 minutes with Q&A period
Purpose: To inform Council of asks and recommendations put forward in 2021 ABCS Lobby Days as well as ABCS advocacy efforts Year-in-Review

1.2 CUPE UNION 2278: TA RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsible: Gillian Glass (CUPE 2278 President)
Description: Guest presentation to GSS Council; 10 minutes with Q&A period
Purpose: To provide councillors with pertinent information about the rights of Teaching Assistants and Markers at the end of term. The councillors are kindly asked to spread this information as widely as possible in their department so that all 2278 members, all across (the virtual) campus, are appraised of their rights under the Collective Agreement.
Relevant Materials: CUPE 2278 - GSS Presentation April 2021.pdf

2  APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- March 18, 2021

MOVER: SECONDER: RESULT:

2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic &amp; External Committee</td>
<td>March 3, 2021; March 17, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Finance Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code and Policy Committee</td>
<td>March 3, 2021; March 17, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elections Committee</td>
<td>February 2, 2021; March 3, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services Committee</td>
<td>February 3, 2021; February 17, 2021; March 3, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>March 12, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS Caucus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MOVER:  SECONDER:  RESULT:

3  SEATINGS

3.1  NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anurag Krishna</td>
<td>Civil Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohamed Kamel</td>
<td>Civil Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saumadritaa Kar</td>
<td>Pathology and Laboratory Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sofie McComb</td>
<td>Forest and Conservation Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOVER:  SECONDER:  RESULT:

3.2  EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

All GSS Councillors are required by the bylaws to sit on at least one committee. Committee descriptions and meeting times can be found here.

BIRT the seating of the following external representatives be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee/Caucus</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Vacancies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMS Caucus</td>
<td></td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Council</td>
<td></td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Dental Plan Caucus</td>
<td></td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOVER:  SECONDER:  RESULT:
### 3.3 COMMITTEE SEATINGS

All GSS Councillors are required by the bylaws to sit on at least one committee. Committee descriptions and meeting times can be found here.

**BIRT** the following Committee seatings be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee/Caucus</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Vacancies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic &amp; External</td>
<td>Sofie McComb</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Ebert</td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code &amp; Policy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elections</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Oversight</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance &amp; Accountability</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Finance</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>Aditi Nagaraj</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mostafa Hagar</td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Planning ad-hoc</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MOVER:**

**SECONDER:**

**RESULT:**

### 3.4 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

**BIRT** the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee/Caucus</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elections Committee</td>
<td>Charfeddine Khalifa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MOVER:**

**SECONDER:**

**RESULT:**
4.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

WHEREAS the following organizations have submitted a petition for recognition as an Affiliate Organization,
BIRT the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in April 2022:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Affiliate Organization</th>
<th>Representative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UBC Black Graduate Student Network</td>
<td>Saleh Ismail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Literature Student Association at UBC</td>
<td>Minori Kato-Hopkins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOVER: VP Students SECONDER: RESULT:

4.2 HONORARY MEMBER NOMINATIONS

WHEREAS the following members have contributed significantly to the Graduate Student Society in the course of their terms, and
WHEREAS they satisfy the conditions stated in Bylaw 3.2.1,
BIRT the following members be conferred honorary membership in accordance with Bylaw 3.2.1:

Alireza Kamyabi, Arash Shadkam, Christina Weismann, Kate Sedivy-Haley, Natalie Marshall, Nicolas Romualdi, Pouya Rezaeinia, Sarah Park, Victoria Gomez, and

BIFRT the GSS Council directs the Code and Policy Committee to update the list of Honorary Members in the Policy Manual.

MOVER: President SECONDER: RESULT:

4.3 PRIVACY POLICY AMENDMENTS

Responsible: Code & Policy Committee, Privacy Policy Assistant (Jiwan Sangha), VP External
Description: The GSS Privacy Policy has been identified as being outdated and required updating. The GSS has hired a Privacy Policy Assistant to create new privacy policies as well as assisting in implementing these changes. The resulting work of this position is being presented today as well as implementing these changes to our Policy Manual.
Objective: To approve policy changes related to GSS privacy policy.
Time: 15 minutes
Relevant Materials: [Presentation from Jiwan Sangha]; Policy Revision Form - Privacy Policy.pdf

WHEREAS the GSS Privacy Policy requires updating to be aligned with the PIPA and the current practices and standards of privacy policy in BC,
BIRT the policy amendments and additions from Policy Revision Form - Privacy Policy.docx be implemented as presented.
4.4 POLICY 6.2 DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES CALCULATIONS

**Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee, Governance & Accountability Committee  
**Description:** Currently, there is severe underrepresentation of these academic units in Council (only ~1/3). The ultimate goal is to have all academic units represented, but first we have to determine who these units are. Using multiple sources including the GSS and departmental websites, academic units were identified. To identify Academic Units and to actively determine vacancies on Council, G&A will perform a bi-annual review of Academic Units and number of students in each.  
**Objective:** To approve policy changes related to calculating departmental representatives for GSS Council.  
**Time:** 10 minutes  
**Relevant Materials:** Policy Revision Form - Policy 6.2 Departmental Representatives and Appendix XVI.pdf

**WHEREAS** there is a severe underrepresentation of academic units in GSS Council, and

**WHEREAS** there has been no regular review of academic units and the open positions of these units in the GSS Council,

**BIRT** the policy amendments and additions from Policy Revision Form - Policy 6.2 Departmental Representatives and Appendix XVI be implemented as presented.

---

5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 2021 ELECTIONS REPORT

**Responsible:** Mostafa Hagar (Elections Committee Chair), Benni Beltramo (Elections and Student Engagement Officer)  
**Time:** 15 minutes  
**Description:** A presentation about the overall procedure for elections this year. This presentation should have been delivered last meeting but was postponed to discuss an appeal.  
**Objective:** To brief Council on the performance of the election procedures and open the floor for suggestions/recommendations for consideration.  
**Relevant materials:** 2021 Elections Report.pdf

5.2 SERVICES AND ELECTIONS CONSULTATION

**Responsible:** Andrew Zang (Chair, Services Committee)  
**Time:** 10 minutes  
**Description:** Discussion on Services and Elections merging/working together  
**Objective:** Get Council’s opinion  
**Relevant materials:**
5.3 **MARCH 2021 FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**Responsible:** Tayo Olarewaju (Financial and Executive Oversight Officer)  
**Time:** 5 minutes  
**Description:** March 2021 Financial Update  
**Objective:** Report  
**Relevant materials:** To be provided

5.4 **REPORT ON 2021-21 GSS EXECUTIVES’ GOALS**

**Responsible:** Executive Oversight Committee  
**Time:** 20 minutes  
**Description:** Report on 2021-21 GSS Executives’ Goals  
**Objective:** Report  
**Relevant materials:** To be provided

5.5 **VP STUDENTS YEARLY RECAP**

**Responsible:** Sarah Park (VP Students)  
**Time:** 10 minutes  
**Description:** VP Students Yearly Recap  
**Objective:** To update council on the ongoings and recap the 2020-2021 year in the VP Students portfolio  
**Relevant materials:** [VP Students Yearly Recap 20-21.pdf](#)

5.6 **VP EXTERNAL YEAR-IN-REVIEW**

**Responsible:** Alireza Kamyabi (VP External)  
**Time:** 10 minutes  
**Description:** VP External Office year-in-review and remarks on a future path forward  
**Relevant materials:** to be provided

5.7 **VP UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FINAL REMARKS**

**Responsible:** Nicolas Romualdi (VP University and Academic Affairs)  
**Time:** 10 minutes  
**Description:** Final remarks summarizing observations and recommendations moving forward  
**Relevant materials:** to be provided

5.8 **COUNCIL AWARDS 2021**

**Responsible:** Kimani Karangu (President)  
**Time:** 5 minutes  
**Description:** Presentation of Council Awards 2021 for Best Councillor, Best Ordinary Member, Best Committee, Best Committee Chair  
**Relevant materials:** Announcement! And slides to be provided
6 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

6.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wellbeing Week! DIY Candlemaking (Apr 19), Bullet Journals (Apr 20), Paint Night (Apr 23)
- Virtual Games Round 3 (Apr 21)

6.2 EXECUTIVES

6.2.1 President

- Coaching Proposal Feedback meeting, Team Coaching Session #1, Team Coaching Session #2
- U15 Graduate Student Societies - 3rd General Meeting - MOU Discussion
- Health and Dental Emergency Meetings
- EDI audit meetings
- UBCV VPA and Provost Reappointment Committee: Student leaders slot
- Together Nicolas VPUAA met the BoG chair Nancy McKenzie.
- UBC and Universities Canada have been strongly advocating with the Federal government to provide VISA expediting, VISA concessions (less than full course load) and campus-provided quarantine for new and returning international students.

6.2.2 FEOO

- Effected and/or reviewed GSS March Financial transactions.
- In collaboration with staff and EOC working on executives’ transition schedule.
- Chaired meetings of EOC that reviewed 2020-21 executive’s goal.
- The House and Finance Committee reallocated $8000 from budget lines that have not been expended by the 2020/21 VP External. The reallocated sum is to be used to produce a video project on Graduate Education for the Public Good.

6.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

- **International Students:** Processing times for student Visas can be problematic for students who are arriving to Canada for the first time. Effort is likely necessary to monitor the development of an appropriate response from the University, in particular for students who are in course-based programs and may not qualify for full time registered status with limited remote offerings. Interruptions in full time status can result in problems when applying for post-graduation work permits.
- **Budget and Tuition Consultation:** The budget and tuition process has not yet finalized at the time of submitting these updates. The update presented is the best available information at this time. The GSS participated proactively in budget consultation, starting with submissions to the Provost and VP Finance office, to the close cycle of the board, and finally to the open board session. The quarantine housing bursary funding is planned to be expanded to 1 M$.
  There is significant expectation that funding will become available to offer compensation to research graduate students, both masters and PhD, as a result of the delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
• **Executive Transition:** The incoming VP UAA has started transitioning into the role and familiarizing herself with the major stakeholders and important tables. Templates for COVID and non-COVID budgets have been provided. Introductions to graduate council and VPS staff will soon follow.

6.2.4 **VP External**

•

6.2.5 **VP Students**

• GSS Haiku contest winners – Had 30+ submissions from various departments, posted on Twitter and Newsletter, gave out GCs
• Working with representatives from graduate students from BIOF, IOP, GSAT to create a graduate student group
• Hosted UBC Science Communication Week 2021 in collaboration with UBC Faculty of Medicine Graduate & Postdoctoral Education Office funding with Daniel He
• Wrapped up Mountain Subsidy Program to allow students to partake in outdoor activities of their choosing to get reimbursements back
• Sitting on the Graduate Speaker Selection Committee for virtual spring graduation 2021
• Working with Bakau Consulting for the EDI audit – waiting for analysis by end of the month
• Working with Services Committee on merging Elections Committee based on their final decision
• In conversation with UBC REC to host potential summer programming, depending on interest of incoming VP Students
• Upcoming events: DIY Candlemaking, Get into Bullet Journalling, Jackbox Games Round 2, Paint Night, and Canada-wide Trivia! Come through 😊

6.3 **COMMITTEES**

6.3.1 **Academic & External Committee**

• On March 17th, AcEx met to continue its discussion of the possibilities for UBC graduate student federal advocacy within the context of the UCRU lobby group (Undergraduates of Canadian Research Intensive Universities). AcEx also discussed and explored the potential for changes to the GSS’s approach in receiving and responding to program tuition consultations from the University. AcEx will meet on April 14th and receive a presentation from graduate students involved in the UBC Kindness Project.

6.3.2 **Code & Policy Committee**

• CPC has been working with G&A regarding policies around conflict resolution as well as departmental representative calculations
• CPC has started to work on SMART goals, including scheduling regular meeting items regarding revising the entirety of the Policy Manual
• CPC has had one Councillor unseated due to being elected as VP UAA

6.3.3 **Elections Committee**
• Reviewed SMART goals, prepared election report, discussed merging with Services committee, and reviewed recommendations for next year’s elections.

6.3.4 Executive Committee

• (none submitted)

6.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

• EOC reviewed 2020-21 Executive Reports and is considering proposing changes to executives’ work hours.

6.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

• G&A completed our committee SMART Goals and planning to send to executives for review.
• G&A started tracking KPIs and in the process of establishing assessment criteria.
• G&A has resumed its work on the Indigenous Engagement ad hoc Committee

6.3.7 House Finance Committee

• Uber vouchers for GSS meeting approved - $8/person/meeting for Committee & $10/person/meeting for Council. April is the pilot month to iron out the process. Increasing amount for Committee meetings to $10/person/meeting (from $8) to be evaluated during the new budget discussion.
• VP External’s budget reallocation of $8000 approved for creation of video to supplement the “Graduate Students for Public Good” report.
• Discussion ongoing with FEOO to invest GSS account balance in mutual funds. Amount and duration to be decided. Low-carbon mutual funds options to be evaluated. The goal is to be at par with inflation rates.

6.3.8 Human Resources

• (none submitted)

6.3.9 Services Committee

• Working on smart goals

6.3.10 Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee

• SPAHC has moved into the next phase of its development of the strategic plan - writing out specific Goals, Priorities, and Proposed Strategies using all the resources we’ve created over the past year - student satisfaction surveys, themes surveys, previous planning documents & interviews with our stakeholders.
• We are on track for our next steps of having a draft ready for council in the July meeting.

6.3.11 AMS Caucus

•

6.3.12 Graduate Council Caucus
• Grad Council has not met since the last Council meeting as the most recent Grad Council is the same day as this GSS Council

6.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

6.4.1 Senators:
• (none submitted)

6.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:
• (none submitted)

7 NOTICES

7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, May 20th at 5:30 pm
Location: Online Via Teams

7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

• Alison McClean was unseated as Departmental Representative from the School of Population and Public Health.
• Mohammad Ali Shahsavari was unseated as Ordinary Member from Governance and Accountability Committee.
• Mostafa Hagar was unseated as Departmental Representative from Chemistry.
• Mostafa Hagar was unseated as Chair from Elections Committee.
• Avery Newman-Simmons was unseated as Ordinary Member from Governance and Accountability Committee.
• Delarem Shojaei was unseated as Departmental Representative from Interdisciplinary Oncology.
• Zhenyang Xu was unseated as Departmental Representative from Educational Studies.
• Jennifer Lipka was unseated as Ordinary Member from Services Committee.
• Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi was unseated as Councillor from Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee.
• Christina Weismann was unseated as Ordinary Member from House Finance Committee.

8 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at __ pm.

MOVER: SECONDER: RESULT: